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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 ICA-11
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 STR-07 SSO-00
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DRAFTED BY C:RHOPPER:MP
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
EUR/NE - MR. SCHALLER
----------115286 161903Z /45
R 161830Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, EI, UK

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF STATE JUDD ON NORTHERN IRELAND
1. DURING MEETING ON MAY 15 WHICH PRINCIPALLY FOCUSSED ON PROBLEMS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, FCO MINISTER OF STATE FRANK JUDD AND DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR NIMETZ DISCUSSED THE MOST RECENT TALKS BETWEEN SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF HMG AND GOI IN DUBLIN.

2. ACCORDING TO JUDD, ROY MASON WAS TYPICALLY AND USEFULLY CANDID IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MICHAEL O'KENNEDY. BY THE END OF A LONG DAY OF TALKS, BOTH SIDES HAD A GOOD UNDER-STANDING OF EACH OTHER'S POLICY GOALS AND POLITICAL LIMITATIONS. JUDD HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DUBLIN SESSION
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IN ATTEMPT TO BROADEN SCOPE OF ISSUES DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. BRITISH FEEL THEY HAVE WIDE RANGE OF SHARED INTERESTS WITH THE IRISH AND HAD HOPED TO FIND WAYS TO EXPRESS THIS COMMONALITY, ESPECIALLY WITHIN AN EC CONTEXT. JUDD LAMENTED THAT PRESS COVERAGE OF DISCUSSIONS HAD NATURALLY NARROWED THE SPOTLIGHT BACK DOWN TO NORTHERN IRELAND'S SECURITY PROBLEMS.

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3. JUDD HOPED THAT ONE POSITIVE OUTCOME OF MEETING HAD BEEN REALIZATION -- ESPECIALLY BY NEW IRISH GOVERNMENT -- THAT BOTH SIDES MUST LOWER EXPECTATIONS OF THEIR FOLLOWERS THAT THERE CAN BE QUICK OR DRAMATIC POLITICAL VICTORY. HE STRESSED BRITISH BELIEF THAT IRISH GOVERNMENT MUST NOT ATTEMPT TO BRING ISSUE TO HEAD SINCE THAT WOULD ONLY MAKE CLEAR THE SHORT-RUN IMPOSSIBILITY OF RECONCILING POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF IRISH GOVERNMENT AND ITS SUPPORTERS WITH DEEPLY FELT VIEWS OF LARGE MAJORITY OF POPULATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND. SHOULD GOI RAISE ISSUES TO HIGH PROFILE, JUDD FEARS PAISLEY'S GROUP AND MANY OFFICIAL UNIONISTS WOULD WORK TOGETHER IN COMMON CAUSE, WHICH WOULD ONLY MAKE A COMPROMISE OUTCOME EVEN LESS LIKELY.

4. IN PARTING BON MOT JUDD NOTED THAT DUE TO RESIDUAL EFFECT OF PROTESTANT ETHIC, ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IN NORTHERN IRELAND IS STRIKINGLY GOOD. NIMETZ COUNTERED THAT EFFECT OF PROTESTANT ETHIC COULD ONLY ACCOUNT FOR TWO-THIRDS OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS. VANCE

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